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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/584,456

05/29/2007

Markus Baumann

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EXAMINER

STEVENS, THOMAS H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2121

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/584,456	Applicant(s) BAUMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner THOMAS H. STEVENS	Art Unit 2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-12, 14, 18, 20, 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 15-17, 19, 22 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/29/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-10 were cancelled.
2. Claims 11-23 were examined.

Claim Objections

3. The examiner has provided a number of claim deficiency examples; however, the list of deficiencies may not be inclusive. Applicant should refer to these as examples of deficiencies and should make all necessary corrections to eliminate the claim objections.

Claim 20, "the at least one parameter"

All claims have been treated on their merits.

4. Claims 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims i.e., moving all limitations into claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 11-12,14,18,20,21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Besson (US Patent 4,600,316; hereafter Besson) in view of Knoll et al. (US Patent 3,732,368; hereafter Knoll).

Per claims 11-12,14,18,20,21 Knoll teaches

- a motor vehicle (abstract)
- in a menu structure (figure 1, element 1 or column 5, line 44) with a plurality of menu levels, (figure 1, element 1 or column 5, line 44) and a screen display

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having a plurality of display areas for displaying the menu structure, (figure 1, element 1 or column 5, line 44) each of the display areas comprising at least one field for displaying one of the entries (figure 1 element 9)

- least two entries (keypad can select from a variety of information items, column 3, lines 47-56) are assigned to a settable parameter (examples listed in column 3, lines 47-56) for setting a first entry being an analog display (figure 1, element 5) of the settable parameter, and second entry being a digital display (column 5, lines 62-67) of the settable parameter (examples listed in column 3, lines 47-56)

Per claims 11-12,14,18,20,21 Besson teaches

- manual actuator (figure 1, element 4,4')
- a plurality of degrees of freedom of adjustment (first degree, column 3; second degree, column 4, lines 48-50) for at least one of selecting and activating entries

While all the component parts are known in Knoll and Besson. The only difference is the combination of old elements into a single vehicle by incorporating the teachings of Besson into Knoll. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to mount the plurality of degrees of freedom of the control dial of Besson into Knoll since Besson teaches a procedure that modify[ies] the analog and digital indication (Besson: column 2, line 42).

Per claim 20, Besson teaches

- the at least one parameter represents a time (column 2, line 34)

Per claim 21, Besson teaches

- first subparameter represents hours (column 3, lines 39-40), a second subparameter represents minutes(column 3, lines 39-40) and a third subparameter represents seconds.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact examiner's supervisor Mr. Albert Decady (571-272-3819). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.. Answers to

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questions regarding access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) (toll-free (866-217-9197)).

/Albert Decady/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Tech Center 2100

/Thomas H. Stevens/
Examiner, Art Unit 2121